

## Message Text

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EA/P - MR. SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DECEMBER 10 NOON BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DECEMBER 10 NOON  
BRIEFING:

### 1. BLUE HOUSE BUGGING

QUESTION: THE ROKG INFORMATION MINISTER HAS ISSUED A STATE-  
MENT CALLING ON THE U.S. TO PUBLICLY CONFIRM OR DENY THAT  
IT HAD "BUGGED" THE BLUE HOUSE SOME YEARS AGO. WHAT CAN  
YOU SAY ABOUT THE REPORTED BUGGING?

ANSWER: AS WE STATED LAST MONTH, WHEN THIS FIRST AROSE, IT  
IS OUR REGULAR AND LONGSTANDING PRACTICE NOT TO COMMENT ON  
MATTERS OF THIS SORT.

QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE  
INFORMATION MINISTER'S STATEMENT?

ANSWER: I HAVE NO COMMENT.

QUESTION: HAVE THE KOREANS COME TO US DIPLOMATICALLY TO  
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ASK THAT WE COMMENT ON THE PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE ALLEGED

BUGGING?

ANSWER: I'VE ALREADY STATED THAT I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO THIS AND THAT STILL STANDS.

## 2. KIM SANG-KUN CASE

QUESTION: YESTERDAY, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING ON THE U.S. TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO KIM SANG-KUN, AND TO SET HIM PHYSICALLY FREE. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THAT STATEMENT?

ANSWER: I DEALT WITH THE ISSUE YESTERDAY, AND MY COMMENTS STILL STAND. MR. KIM CHOSE FREELY TO SEEK TO REMAIN IN THE U.S. AND THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REPORTEDLY INFORMED OF THAT FACT.

QUESTION: HAS THE DEPARTMENT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ROKG SINCE THAT STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AND IF SO WHAT HAVE WE SAID TO THEM?

ANSWER: WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT AND WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT THE STATEMENT ITSELF DID NOT HELP THE SITUATION. WE ALSO REITERATED, ONCE MORE, THE FACTS OF THE CASE, INCLUDING MR. KIM'S UNWILLINGNESS TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

## 3. ROK-U.S. RELATIONS

QUESTION: THE TWO PUBLIC STATEMENTS YESTERDAY AND TODAY BY THE ROKG WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE A SERIOUS WORSENING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KOREANS. HOW DOES THE DEPARTMENT SEE THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS RIGHT NOW?

ANSWER: WE HAVE CONVEYED TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT OUR VIEW THAT THE STATEMENTS WERE NOT HELPFUL. AT THE SAME TIME OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING OUR SECURITY INTERESTS, REMAINS UNCHANGED.

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QUESTION: HOW ABOUT OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP IN LIGHT OF CURRENT EVENTS?

ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT OUR CUSTOM TO SPECULATE.

## 4. SEC INVESTIGATION

QUESTION: WHAT CAN THE DEPARTMENT SAY ABOUT TODAY'S

STORIES ABOUT AN SEC INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE BRIBERY OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN BY TWO KOREAN BUSINESS AGENTS WORKING FOR AN AMERICAN COMPANY? CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE ALLEGED

ROLE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN SEOUL AND THE THEN AMBASSADOR HABIB?

ANSWER: ANY QUESTION ABOUT THE REPORTED SEC INVESTIGATION OBVIOUSLY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SEC.

WITH REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED ROLE OF OUR EMBASSY, I CAN SAY THAT IT IS NORMAL PRACTICE, IN PURSUIT OF U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS FOR AMERICAN EMBASSIES TO PROVIDE AMERICAN COMPANIES WITH LISTS OF LOCAL BUSINESS AGENTS. THE CHOICES, OF COURSE, ARE MADE BY THE AMERICAN COMPANIES THEMSELVES.

5. AT BRIEFING, SPOKESMAN WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT SOUTH KOREA INFORMATION MINISTER KIM'S CHARGES CONCERNING ALLEGED BUGGING OF THE BLUE HOUSE. HE REITERATED THAT IT IS OUR REGULAR AND LONG-STANDING PRACTICE NOT TO COMMENT ON MATTERS OF THAT SORT; HE ALSO EMPLOYED HIS GUIDANCE WHEN ASKED ABOUT KIM'S STATEMENT THAT THE "DISTORTIONS" SURROUNDING THE BUGGING REPORT AND FAILURE OF THE U.S. TO ISSUE CLARIFICATION COULD HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

6. SPOKESMAN WAS PRESSED AS TO WHY KIM SANG-KUN HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICLY PRODUCED AND ALLOWED TO STATE THAT HE VOLUNTARILY SOUGHT U.S. ASYLUM AND DOES NOT WISH TO SEE SOUTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES. HE REPLIED THAT KIM SOUGHT FREELY TO REMAIN HERE AND THAT THE ROKG HAS BEEN SO INFORMED.

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7. IN THE COURSE OF ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS SPOKESMAN ALSO USED GUIDANCE ON U.S./ROK RELATIONS AS PROVIDED. ROBINSON

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